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## **FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD**

# **FEBRUARY 2003 NEWSLETTER**

### **WELCOME 2003!**

Wow. 2003 is here already and by the time you read this six weeks of it will be gone! Seems like just yesterday we were wondering and worrying about Y2K and here we are Y2K +3! This year holds to be another great one for our hobby. We are healthy and with two great events starting the year off, we getting more notice than we ever have before. Take a few minutes to think about what you can do to further our hobby along. Recruit a new member, give a talk on fractional at your local club, write an article or just a story for the newsletter, prepare an exhibit for Memphis. All of these things will have a great impact on our hobby and help us capitalize on our new found limelight existence.

### **SPECIAL EDITION OF "PAPER MONEY"**

If you have not seen the special Jan/Feb '03 edition of the Society of Paper Money Collectors magazine, "Paper Money" devoted to fractional currency, you have missed a lot! It came out better than could have been expected. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the editor and long time FCCB member Fred Reed. He did a magnificent job! The edition contained eleven (yes, count 'em 11) original articles on fractional and a number of short sidebars as well. I have included a picture of the cover of the edition as well as the table of contents and copies of the two FCCB ads for you to see. I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard on making this a reality, but especially to our authors, Tom O'Mara, John and Nancy Wilson, Rob Kravitz, Rick Melamed, Fred Reed, Jerry Fochtman and David Cassell. I would also like to thank all of our dealer members who placed extra or larger ads to ensure the edition could be done. This was truly a dream come true for us and I hope you all enjoyed it.

### **2003 F.U.N.**

The other event that got 2003 off to a fast start for those of us in the fractional world was the 2003 FUN show in Orlando. Currency Auctions of America (CAA), whose co-founder, Len Glazer is an FCCB charter member, held a massive auction at the show. It featured the collection of Jerry Hoffman, a charter member of FCCB who we lost in 2002. His collection had many highlights in it, including a set of 10-cent, 25-cent and 50-cent fifth issue Tete-beche pairs, only the third complete set in existence. He also had some very nice experimentals, a negative essay, many inverts and overall a large number of very nice notes. In case anyone was wondering, I was able to get the first issue 25-cent invert with my name

(Benny) on it! A manuscript invert—what a find! Unfortunately, I did not get to attend, so I have included the following reports from Doug Hales and Mike Marchioni about the show and sale.

Doug Hales—There were no notes of consequence found on the floor. The most interesting note I saw was an Unc. counterfeit Fessenden stamped BAD.

The auction did not have the activity that major Fractional auctions have had in the past. Many of the better notes sold for less than what was paid for them several years ago. I thought that the Tete-beche pairs, fourth issue proof pair, F1330, the Fessenden experimental, and the F1248 were way off the mark. As usual, one of the up sides of the show was being able to visit with friends I only get to see once or twice a year.

Mike Marchioni—I thought the auction was rather strange: much of the common material went well below estimate, the rare regular issue notes went both above and below estimate (in some cases the estimate was unrealistically high, e.g. 1248 in XF at \$2000) the surprise of the sale was a gem 1330 which went at \$3200 & a nice 1359 at \$1000. The esoteric material didn't do as well as I had anticipated (mostly below estimate), of course the piece I bought went above estimate. The auction seemed to go very slowly due to live Internet bidding slowing the process substantially. Most of us were so tired that we missed bidding on items, which we wanted to buy. I was half-asleep as I had been up since 4AM & the fractional went off at about 10 PM - 11:30 PM. The crowd was smaller than usual. The regulars were there: Bob L., Art P., Dana L., Lou D., Doug H., Wayne L., Judy K., Rob. K. & myself.

At the show, the bourse appeared to have smaller crowds than last year and the amount of fractionals available was very limited. Many of the dealers (non-fractional) had their material priced over gold sheet list. I picked up a nice Grant / Sherman wide margin from Hugh Shull at a reasonable price (less than what they went for in the auction) & a member dealer got a group of narrow margins from another dealer. The only unusual piece on the floor was a stunning single signature 1355, which a member had for sale.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We are still adding members and expect the special edition of "Paper Money" to bring in even more. We just added our 457th member and we currently have 195 active members. Much of the credit for this phenomenal growth goes to you, our members for taking our club to your local shows, clubs and acquaintances.

## **DUES are DUE!**

Speaking of membership, dues for 2003 are now due. If you joined the FCCB before July 1, 2002, you owe dues for 2003. As a reminder, dues are \$15/year. I have enclosed an addressed envelope for you to send your dues to Dr. Lee. Please note—all members got this. If you do not owe dues for this year, just use it to send him a hello! Also, if you have paid your dues for more than one year, you might also drop him a note to that affect, just so our bookkeeping is correct. Remember, we are a small club and very dependent on your dues, so please pay them ASAP.

## **ENCYCLOPEDIA**

Jerry Fochtman has been working very hard on getting the books on disk. I asked him for a report and it follows;

Currently the text for the Simplified Edition has been finalized and I've been working to update the graphics. Much of the text for the full Encyclopedia is drafted and undergoing review. I'm currently in the process of collecting graphics on as many high-grade examples of all the varieties in an effort to possibly include them. I've also been slowly working to try and track down many of Milt's original notes that were depicted in his work so the black & white images

can be upgraded to color graphics. If you happen to have any of Milt's original notes or items illustrated in his book or happen to have either unique or high-grade examples of the varieties and would like to help in this project, please feel free to contact me at 281/361-8948 or jfochtman@bradmark.com. All requests for strict confidentiality in terms of ownership, etc. will be fully honored.

## **MATERIAL NEEDED**

As I said in the last newsletter, I am no longer able to include articles I find in the numismatic press in the newsletter as I have done in the past due to potential copyright problems. This has created a small problem in that I now have even less material than usual for the newsletters. I still aim to put one out every quarter or so, but I need your help. Please send me articles, stories, show reports, new finds, observations, etc. Without your input, this newsletter will solely be a list of members!

**I need more stuff—especially show reports and how fractional was at them!!**

## **MEETING**

It is not too early to be thinking about attending the International Paper Money Show in Memphis June 13-15 at the Cook Convention Center. The host hotel is the Memphis Marriott. The FCCB will be having their annual meeting at the show on Saturday. If you would like to present the program or know of one you would like to see presented, please contact our President, Mr. O'Mara.

## **RAFFLE**

A tradition at our annual meeting is our member raffle. Last year a number of you and some of our dealer members said if we had told them earlier, they would have donated items. So, let this be your first notice. We will be having a raffle at the meeting and need a few good items (no 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> regular issue notes, unless they are in a bound pack. We need 5-10 really good items that would be of interest to our members. We use the money we make off the raffle to help with our expenses.

## **EXHIBITS**

Yes, as always, the upcoming IPMS in Memphis will have exhibits and the exhibit chair is FCCB charter member Mart Delger. Please consider placing an exhibit. You have plenty of time to prepare and they are really fun to do. The deadline for them is in early May. Please let Mart know if you want to exhibit.

## **JOIN THE SPMC**

If you are not a member of the Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC), I urge you join. There is an application to the group included. The SPMC is a great organization for paper money collectors and has many benefits besides "Paper Money." If you are not a member and join soon, I am fairly sure you can get a copy of the special edition on fractional for joining.

## **MILT**

I just wanted to let everyone know I got a nice card from JoAnne and Milt. It seems Milt is progressing in his rehab and wants to thank everyone for their notes and calls and would like more. He also really seemed to enjoy the special edition of Paper Money and sends his congratulations and thanks to the club. I know you all join me in wishing him well and God-speed in his recovery!

# **The Processing of Notes Has Now Made It's Way to Fractional Currency!**

**By: Robert J. Kravitz**

Large size type notes have been processed for many, many years. This began early and slowly in the 1960's, but as the value of these notes increased, more and more of them were processed. My opinion is that 70%-90% of all large size notes have had something done to them. This includes bleaching and cleaning, pressing out folds/wrinkles and closing of pinholes. Bleaching and pressing notes can actually take the grade of the notes up a grade or two. Closing of pinholes by itself rarely increases the grade of a note. During the past year or so, I have noticed more and more fractional notes that have been processed. Most of what I have seen is the pressing of notes. Please look at the notes you buy! Don't buy a Choice CU if you cannot examine it in person. When you examine a note, hold it up to a light at a 45% angle. Look up the note toward the light. Move it back and forth and let the light shimmer off the note. Do this on both sides and turn it around to examine it from both ends. Pressed out folds usually show up as a shiny line or two or three lines. Then, lay the note on a flat surface (extremely clean and dry!). If the note curls up on the ends, it has probably been processed.

All third issue notes should have some degree of embossing on them. Some usually have great embossing, for example, Fr. 1291-95, 1328, 1343 and 1346. You should be suspicious of processing if this embossing is not seen. I have also seen some notes that were pressed on one end to get a fold out. If only half of the note is embossed—be wary of processing! Also, all third issue fiber paper notes should always be thicker than their non-fiber counterparts. Thin or same thickness fiber notes usually have been pressed. Please note—second issue fiber notes are thinner so you cannot use this rule for them.

When a note is bleached or cleaned, that note is essentially permanently damaged and not preserved. You cannot completely get rid of the bleach or cleaning agent as some will always stay in the fibers of the note. The only reason I know of to bleach a note is to increase its' value and in fact you are permanently damaging it.

In closing a pinhole, you are actually preserving a note more than you are increasing the value. You are basically stopping a small tear.

Always be wary of processed notes. Processed notes show up everywhere, from the internet auction sites to reputable dealers and collectors. Look over each note you plan to buy very carefully, no matter what the source. Fractionals are such a specialized subset of the paper money hobby, many dealers and auction houses either don't pay a lot of attention to these notes or don't know what to look for. Potentially, all notes are subject to processing. Most that I have seen are mid-priced (\$200-\$300) price range. I have also seen some of the rarer notes processed, Fr. 1351 and others.

Please take the time to look carefully at the notes you buy. If you buy a note through the mail or over the internet, where you cannot examine it in person, scrutinize it as soon as you receive it. If you think the note has been processed or is not the grade that was advertised/stated, send it back for a full refund. All dealers should take back any processed or mis-graded notes.

# PAPER MONEY

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SMALL, SMALL, SMALL CURRENCY USED TO BE A BIG DEAL  
MANY COLLECTORS STILL BELIEVE IT IS



OUR FIRST  
EVER  
FRACTIONAL  
CURRENCY  
SPECIAL ISSUE

# Paper Money

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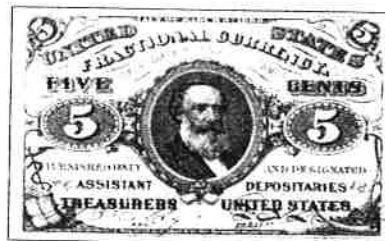
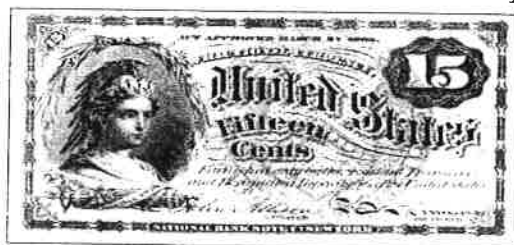
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The members of the  
Fractional Currency Collectors Board (FCCB)  
would like to THANK the Society of Paper  
Money Collectors (SPMC) for publishing this  
special fractional currency issue  
of *Paper Money*.



This ad paid for by the following members of the FCCB

Tom O'Mara

Len and Jean Glazer

Robert Laub

Art, Don and Judith Kagin

Benny Bolin

Robert Kravitz

Howard Cohen

Fred Reed

Jerry Fochtman

John and Nancy Wilson

Come join us—visit our website [www.fractionalcurrency.org](http://www.fractionalcurrency.org)





## WHO ARE WE?

The Fractional Currency Collectors Board (FCCB) is made up of men and women who are interested in the study and collecting of fractional currency. Current membership exceeds 200, and includes the best known collectors in the hobby.



## HOW DO I JOIN?

Dues are \$15.00 per year after the first year dues of \$30.00, which covers the expense of the books. A less expensive first year option is available for only \$20.00, which would cover membership dues and expense of the "Simplified Encyclopedia" only. Send requests for membership to Bill Brandimore, Membership Chairman, 610 Fifth Street Dept. PM, Wausau, Wisconsin 54401. Or visit our website at [www.fractionalcurrency.org](http://www.fractionalcurrency.org).

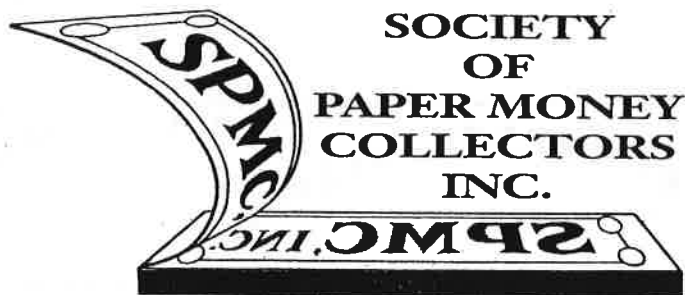


## WHY JOIN?

Membership in the FCCB allows for the needed interaction with other collectors of fractional currency and provides a vehicle for sharing of hard to find information and references. Newsletters are published on an "as news indicates" basis and include new information and articles on fractional currency. The FCCB also maintains a website as an online resource regarding Fractional Currency. Each member gets a copy of the revised Encyclopedia and a copy of the new beginner's "Simplified Encyclopedia" upon joining.







Membership in SPMC is open to anyone interested in paper money and related collectibles. Three classes of membership are available: JUNIOR (ages 12-18), REGULAR, and LIFE. Junior and Regular dues are \$30 per year (payable with your application for membership in U.S. Funds). Life membership is available for \$600 (\$700-Canada and Mexico, \$800 elsewhere) and can be paid for in four installments, not to extend for more than twelve months from the original application. Joining Members residing in Canada or Mexico should add \$5 per year and those residing elsewhere in the world should add \$10 per year to partially cover increased postage and handling costs. To join, print out this page, fill in the form below, and send it and the appropriate remittance to:

**Frank Clark**  
**SPMC Membership Director**  
**P.O. Box 117060**  
**Carrollton, TX 75011**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(P.O. Box or Street Address)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(City) (State) (Zip Code) (Country)**

**Collecting Interest(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Collector**      ☐ **Dealer**      ☐ **Both**

**Do you wish to have your name and address published in the magazine as a new member, listing your collecting interests?**      ☐ **Yes**      ☐ **No**

**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(If the applicant is between 12-18 years old, the legal guardian should also sign).**

**Type of membership desired:**      ☐ **Regular**      ☐ **Life**      ☐ **Junior**

**Referred by: Benny Bolin**